

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of encoding a digital video sequence ~~(VS)~~, said digital video sequence comprising some sets of images including a disparity map comprising an image in which a disparity value is assigned to every pixel, said disparity map being used to reconstruct one image of a set of images from a reference image of said set of images, characterized in that the method comprises the steps of:

encoding a type of the disparity map to be used for the reconstruction of an image, ~~;~~ and
encoding the disparity map.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method of processing a digital video sequence ~~(VS)~~ as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the encoding of the type of the disparity map is done by means of a flag.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method of processing a digital video sequence ~~(VS)~~ as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the encoding of the type of the disparity map is followed by a set of parameters.

4. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having encoded thereon a computer program product for an encoder ~~(ENC)~~,

said computer program product comprising a set of instructions, which, when loaded into said encoder ~~(ENC)~~, causes the encoder ~~(ENC)~~ to carry out the method claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium having encoded thereon a computer program product for a computer, said computer program product comprising a set of instructions, which, when loaded into said computer, causes the computer to carry out the method claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3.

6. (Currently Amended) An encoder ~~(ENC)~~ for encoding a digital video sequence ~~(VS)~~, said digital video sequence comprising some sets of images including a disparity map comprising an image in which a disparity value is assigned to every pixel, said disparity map being used to reconstruct one image of a set of images from a reference image of said set of images, characterized in that ~~it the~~ encoder comprises:

_____ first encoding means ~~adapted to encode~~ for encoding a type of the disparity map to be used for the reconstruction of an image; and

_____ second encoding means for encoding the disparity map.

7. (Currently Amended) A video communication system, which is able to receive a digital video sequence ~~(VS)~~, said video communication system comprising an encoder ~~(ENC)~~ as claimed in claim 6 for encoding said video signal, a transmission channel for

transmitting the encoded video signal, and a decoder ~~(DEC)~~ for decoding said encoded video signal.